

an avid hunter, lacrosse player, and environmental advocate. He worked to obtain a new health center for the Onondaga Nation School, and to return sacred objects from museums to the Onondaga people. He published several books, including, "Who are These People Anyway?"

It is my honor to recognize the life and legacy of this great leader in our community. May Chief Irving Powless, Jr. name and legacy forever be remembered in the RECORD. Rest peacefully.

#### HEZBOLLAH'S ILLICIT ACTIVITIES

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 20, 2017*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent report reveals that the Obama White House, in a desperate attempt to appease the Ayatollahs in Iran, let Hezbollah off the hook. The report outlines how the DEA was on to Hezbollah's illicit network of drug and arms trafficking, money laundering and other criminal activities, yet the Obama administration stalled or blocked any prosecutions that would have disrupted the terror group's nefarious activities so that Iran would agree to the nuclear deal. This stunning revelation adds more evidence to why the JCPOA was a bad deal.

For years Hezbollah built an extensive network in Latin America to raise money for its terrorist activities. Addressing Hezbollah's illicit activities across the globe, but in particular the Western Hemisphere, has been a top priority for Congress for many years.

Through hearings and legislation we have exposed the direct ties between Hezbollah and criminal groups in the region that allowed Hezbollah to amass nearly \$1 billion annually. Yet the U.S. failed to take sufficient action to disrupt this massive flow of money, drugs, and arms that have made Hezbollah the most powerful terrorist group in the world.

In 2014, a GAO review noted that only two of 12 requirements that were mandated by the Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act were being addressed. Meanwhile, Hezbollah's activity in our hemisphere increased. In June 2017, an individual with alleged ties to the terrorist group was arrested in Paraguay and extradited to the U.S. That same month, another individual was arrested for attempting to provide support to Hezbollah in targeting the U.S. and Israeli embassies in Panama. These events followed the 2014 arrest of a Hezbollah operative in Peru, an Iranian-linked assassination attempt on the Saudi Ambassador in Washington in 2011, and the deadly terrorist attacks against two Jewish targets in Argentina in the 1990s. Moreover, the special prosecutor who uncovered Iran and Hezbollah's role in the Argentina attacks was murdered in 2015.

Together with my colleagues, Chairman Cook of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee and Chairman Ros-Lehtinen of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, I have sent a letter to President Trump urging him to address the shortfalls that occurred under the Obama administration in terms of dismantling Hezbollah's illicit activities. We, in the House, have provided the tools necessary to pursue Hezbollah, passing H.R. 3329, the

Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act, which includes Section 105 mandating a U.S. strategy to address Iran and Hezbollah's networks in the Western Hemisphere and requiring the alignment of U.S. actions with our regional partners. We are prepared to do more to make up for years of negligence under the Obama White House that allowed these killers to go unbothered. And that's just the way it is.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CUMBERLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 20, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Cumberland Telephone Company of Cumberland, Iowa. This year marks the 120th year of operations for the telecommunications company, which opened its doors in 1897.

The company was originally named the Briscoe-Cumberland Telephone Company. Briscoe was a small mining town located in Adams County, Iowa. Today, the Cumberland Telephone Company is a full-service communications company offering internet, local and long distance phone service, and fiber-to-the-home packages for their customers. It also provides wireless internet services throughout the Cumberland exchange.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate the Cumberland Telephone Company and its staff for providing cutting-edge telecommunication services to the Cumberland community and Southwest Iowa for the past 120 years. I urge my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating Cumberland Telephone Company for their numerous achievements in the communications industry and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

#### REMEMBERING POTA VALLAS

### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 20, 2017*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Pota Vurnakes Vallas, who died last week at the age of 109, surrounded by her family. A loving wife, mother and grandmother, pioneering businesswoman, and public-spirited citizen, Mrs. Vallas was one of the Fourth District's oldest residents and the matriarch of Raleigh's Greek community. Lisa and I extend our condolences to her family and her many friends and admirers in the Greek community and beyond.

Mrs. Vallas was born in 1908 in the small village of Krissfa, Greece, the eldest of ten children. In 1924 her father, Gus Vurnakes, became the first Greek immigrant to settle in Raleigh and Pota soon followed. Gus opened a fruit and soda stop in downtown Raleigh and Pota assisted him, delivering ice cream and chocolates on a horse-drawn wagon to homes and businesses in Raleigh.

In 1927, she married fellow immigrant George Vallas and began raising her family.

She and George were stalwart members of the community, helping to establish a Greek Orthodox Church in downtown Raleigh. Eventually George and Pota donated the land upon which Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church stands today.

George and Pota lost their home and business in the Great Depression. To provide for her young family, she applied to work for the Singer Sewing Company in 1931 and quickly emerged as a talented salesperson and manager. Her dream of owning her own business finally came to fruition in 1944 when she bought the distributorship of the National Sewing Machine Company and opened National Art Interiors, one of the first interior decorating businesses in Raleigh. Pota's store became a landmark for the finest furniture and fabric companies, furnishing many homes and businesses throughout the state. She ran the business with her daughters and other family members until retiring at the age of 94 in 2002.

In addition to managing a thriving company, Mrs. Vallas served on the Boards of First Citizens Bank and the North Carolina Community Foundation. She was a lifelong member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and a member of Philoptochos. She was honored with the Saint Michael's Award, the highest recognition for a layperson, for her years of dedicated service by the Greek Orthodox Diocese of America.

Mrs. Vallas was one of my most memorable constituents. I often saw her at Raleigh's Greek Festival and treasure the memory of delivering a birthday letter from President Obama to her on one such occasion. She was quick with a smile and an encouraging word. She was a woman of great energy and faith, an indomitable spirit. She leaves behind a community that she loved and that loved her in return. We join with that community in mourning her passing and honoring her exemplary life.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY AND BILL KOENIG

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 20, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Shirley and Bill Koenig of Underwood, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on October 26, 2017 and were married in Treynor, Iowa in 1957.

Shirley and Bill's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.